Neglecting the Rights of Parents

She looked at her mother as she was walking in a rush and said that she was busy. Her mother followed her with her eyes and stood up to work, even though she was ill. She became tired from working and had to rest for a short while on the floor, then stood up again to go on working. She said to herself, "She says she is busy and refuses to help me, I her own mother." She overcame her sadness and when night fell, she sat with her daughter talking to her as if nothing had happened. The mother said to her, "I left a few things for you to do, so do not forget to do them." Her daughter stood up and said that she has to prepare for tomorrow's lecture in college. The mother said, "Every day you have to prepare for this lecture or listen to that tape, does not your mother have a right on you?" Upon hearing her mother's words and remembering Allâh's Statement:

﴿ فَلَا تَقُل لَّهُمَآ أُفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرْهُمَا وَقُل لَّهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ﴾

[الإسراء: ٢٣]

"Say not to them (parents) *Uff* (Fie, a word of disrespect), nor shout at them but address them in terms of honor." (17:23)

She brought the tape she was listening to, a religious lecture, and said, "This is the cassette, I was hearing. We will hear it together in the kitchen; I will never leave you alone to do all the work."

Indeed, dear sister, obeying your mother is better than listening to a cassette or preparing for a lecture, for which

you indeed have ample time. Obedience to your mother is required from you, except when Allâh's disobedience is involved, and being dutiful to her is an act of drawing close to Allâh.

Say, dear sister, to your mother: forgive me for my shortcomings, which are a result of the hastiness of young age. After this, I will never leave you alone, nor will I allow you to get angry at me or allow other people to say that I am undutiful to my parents. I will be the good example that brings honor and happiness to you. Do this, O Muslim sister, might that Allâh make the dwelling that is filled with all that is good and righteous, right in front of your eyes and within your reach.

Tales From the *Salaf*

Abu Al-Laith said:

> "There was a righteous man who did not demand things from his son for fear he might not obey him and thus end in Hell-fire."[1]

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[1] *Al-Barakah fi Fadhl As-Sa'i wal-Harakah*, p. 97